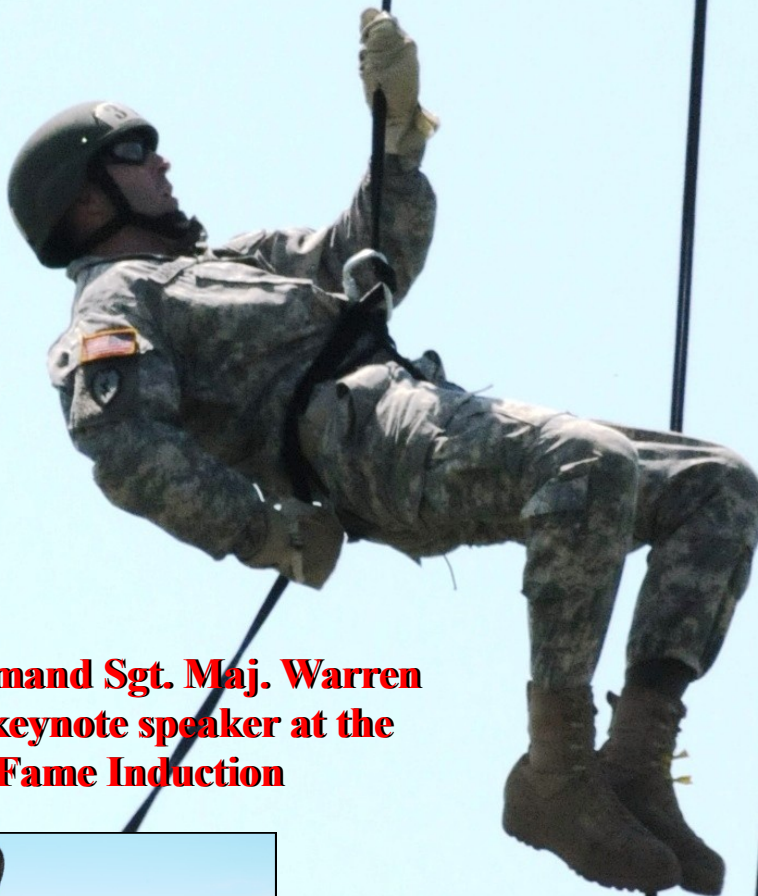


# KANSAS SENTINEL



**Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren  
'Bud' Smith keynote speaker at the  
NCO Hall of Fame Induction**



**RSP Warriors Compete**

**Final Coverage of 2010  
Kansas National Guard  
Association Seminar**



# FEATURES

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## On the cover:

*Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson descends toward the ground as he rappels from a UH-60 Black Hawk during the rappel phase of Air Assault School at Camp Gruber, Okla.*

*Cover design by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD*



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# Commander's Call!

The month of May continues to be a time of many events. We have welcomed home members of the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) who served in Kosovo. Farewell ceremonies were conducted for 2-137th Combined Arms Battalion and Company G, 2-135th Aviation as they left for their final training at their mobilization stations. Soldiers of the 2-130th FA Battalion continue to serve with distinction for the MFO mission in the Sinai.

We had the initial induction of ten deserving soldiers into the Non-Commissioned Officer Hall of Fame in April. This was a collective effort by all to accomplish and recognizes the special achievements of our NCOs.

Announcements about changes in KSARNG leadership began with the selection of CSM Ryan as the next Land Component Command Sergeant Major. I appreciate the efforts that CSM Peterson has made in that position and know that this transition will go smoothly.



***Brig. Gen. John Davoren  
Assistant Adjutant General,  
Kansas Land Component***

The summer months continue to be our busiest periods for annual training or school events for all units in the reset or training phases of the Force Generation Cycle. I look forward to visiting as many of the unit training events as possible over the next three months. These visits will also include an assessment of the results of the armory closing and consolidations.

Our level of training continues to be very high. Unit strength numbers continue to be my top concern and are of critical importance for the future of the Kansas Army National Guard. Last month I said that we were about 100 soldiers below our strength goal of 5365. We have cut that deficit in half in the last 5 weeks.

All of us must be committed to doing our best every day and looking for ways to improve every day in the future. I am proud that we have Kansas soldiers who continue to meet the needs of Kansas and nation.



# Sergeants Time...



## Army Guard Continues Search for Those Eligible for Earned Pay

*By Army SSG Jim Greenhill  
and Army SFC Jon Soucy  
National Guard Bureau*

—Memo from the Command Sgt. Maj. Everyone, I read this the other day, and I think it's important that you all read it too.

ARLINGTON, Va., (May 7, 2010) - Thousands of Army National Guard Soldiers, including those who have retired or separated, have till Oct. 28 to apply for Post Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) compensation for serving long, overseas deployments.

"We've got about 14,000 eligible Soldiers," said Army COL Dennis Chapman, chief of Personnel and Policy for the Army National Guard. "About two-thirds of those are still in service, and we've got packets submitted for about 87 percent of the Soldiers that are still in service."

There are about 5,000 former Guard Soldiers that are eligible for the benefit, said Chapman, adding that packets have been received for about 20 percent of those no longer serving.

"So, the real challenge is reaching those out of service," he said.

The Department of Defense developed PDMRA for servicemembers who were deployed longer than established dwell ratios. For reserve component servicemembers that dwell ratio is one year deployed for every five years at home station.

"If you have a tour ending today, you look back 72 months and if you were (mobilized) for more than 12 months out of that 72 months, you may be eligible for PDMRA days," said Chapman.

Initially, PDMRA allowed Soldiers to earn additional administrative leave days for the additional time spent de-



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Glenn Peterson**  
State Command Sergeant Major,  
Joint Force Headquarters—  
Land Component

ployed. However, Soldiers must be in a Title 10 status to use those leave days. That meant that once Army Guard Soldiers returned to Title 32 status, they were ineligible to use those days, said Chapman.

As a stop gap measure the policy was revised and allowed eligible Soldiers to apply those leave days to their next deployment. But for those who left the service or don't deploy again, that effectively meant they couldn't take advantage of the benefit, said Chapman.

"Congress passed a law in the most recent National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing the services to pay Soldiers at a rate of up to \$200 a day for any PDMRA days they earned ... but were not able to take," said Chapman.

Primarily, those who may have earned days under the program, but were not able to use them, are those Guard Soldiers serving on active duty between the signing of the initial policy on Jan. 19, 2007, and when implementation guidelines were published by the Army on Aug. 18, 2007, said Chapman.

However, other laws and policies may affect a Soldier's eligibility.

Typically, a Guard Soldier who serves longer than 12 months during the most recent 72 months gets one PDMRA day for each additional month or fraction of a month. The number of PDMRA days awarded increases after 18 months and again after 24 months served.

On average, those who are eligible receive credit for about 28 days, which translates to more than \$5,000, said Chapman. And those who feel they may be eligible are urged to contact their unit leadership or their state military pay officer.

"A Soldier cannot figure this out themselves," he said. "All they can figure out is that they might be due. So, if you fall under the parameters, it may be good to check with the military pay officer in your state."



# Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame Established

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD*

In an emotionally charged and somber ceremony, the inaugural induction of the Kansas Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame was conducted, Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Kan.

Ten soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror comprised the inaugural class and for many, it was an honor that evoked both heartache and pride as the inductees were memorialized, marking the establishment of the Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame.

"This was the right thing to do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Glenn Peterson, state command sergeant major, Joint Forces Headquarters, Land Component. "The noncommissioned officer hall of fame will be housed in Eckert Hall here at the Great Plains Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan. and will be here for all to bear witness to in the future. This place started our Noncommissioned Officers Academy.



*Retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Warren "Bud" Smith delivers the keynote address during the inaugural ceremonies for the Noncommissioned Officer's Hall of Fame, April 18 at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina.*

So, it is a fitting place that we are able to display our Soldiers and give them a place of honor. They will be over in the headquarters in the main hallway where we get a lot of traffic from (Guardsmen) outside the state, the active Army and it is only fitting."

The brainchild of Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan, 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment, the Hall of Fame will be a place where outstanding noncommissioned officers who have made significant contributions can be recognized and serve as an example and as inspiration to others to go the extra mile.

Nothing could be truer of the inaugural class of inductees. All gave their lives in defense of freedom

during operations in either Iraq or Afghanistan and serve as a solemn reminder of the kind of sacrifices Soldiers make on a daily basis.

"Our honorees, I believe, understood fully what their duty was," said retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Warren "Bud" Smith. "Our honorees were not just Soldiers. They chose to be patriots. They enlisted in the oldest militia in the country; started in 1636. Now it is known as the National Guard. The patriots of 1636 each had a stake in their calling and they were prepared to defend their calling against all enemies foreign and domestic.

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## ***From HALL OF FAME***

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Our honorees chose the same thing. Our honorees chose to be patriots because they wanted to serve and defend not only their country, but our way of life. Just like our forefathers who were part of the militia in the colonies, and answered the call when the call was made, our honorees answered the same call when disaster struck. They were always there. They were ready to serve. That is what makes this so important because they were true patriots,” Smith continued.

“When I think about the way that we are honoring these inductees,” Smith said, “I can’t help but think of the beauty that is there. To think that we are going to put their name and their face and their dedication on a wall so that every Soldier who passes through this facility will have an opportunity to see firsthand what it means to be a Soldier; that they will understand what it means to serve with honor and that they were true patriots.”

This year’s inductees were:



Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clinton Wisdom enlisted Nov. 4, 1986 into Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2nd Battalion 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. In January 2004, Wisdom deployed with Battery B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While providing security for a convoy during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, Wisdom, with valor, gave his life and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, protected the convoy from a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.



Sgt. Don Clary enlisted Feb. 22, 2000 into Detachment 1, Battery B 2nd Battalion 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. In January 2004

Clary deployed with Battery B, 2nd Battalion-130<sup>th</sup> FA in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While providing security for a convoy during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, Clary, with valor, gave his life and with complete disregard for his personal safety, protected the convoy from a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. Clary made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow Soldiers, State and Country.



Sgt. Derrick Lutters enlisted Nov. 23, 1998, into Detachment 1, 170<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, Kansas Army National Guard. In December 2004 Lutters deployed with Company A, 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer

Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on a bridge and road reconnaissance combat mission, Lutters lost his life when his vehicle was attacked by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.



Sgt. Jessie Davila enlisted May 6, 2004 into Detachment 1, Battery B, 1st Battalion 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. Davila deployed September 2005 with Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on combat patrol in Iraq, Davila lost his life when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.

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## From HALL OF FAME

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Cpl. John Wood enlisted Oct. 11, 1988 into Company D, 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard. In September 2004 Wood deployed with the 891<sup>st</sup> EN BN in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wood volunteered to extend his deployment and was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 110<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Missouri Army National Guard. Wood lost his life during combat operations when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.



Master Sgt. Bernard Deghand enlisted Sept. 27, 1986 into Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard. In January 2006 he deployed with a Kansas Army National Guard Embedded Training Team to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While conducting combat operations as part of Operation Mountain Fury, Deghand lost his life to hostile enemy small arms fire.



Staff Sgt. David Berry enlisted April 4, 1986 into Detachment 1, Company E, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard. In February 2005, Berry was awarded the Soldiers Medal, when at great personal risk, he pulled the driver from a burning vehicle accident, saving the drivers' life. Berry then deployed with Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery in October 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He lost his life during combat operations when he was struck by an improvised explosive device.



Sgt. Courtney Finch enlisted August 23, 2002 into Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard. In June 2006 he deployed with the 714<sup>th</sup> Security Forces, Kansas Army National Guard, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Finch lost his life during combat operations.



Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Travis Bachman enlisted Nov. 30, 1993 into Battery A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. In June 2006 he deployed with the 714<sup>th</sup> Security Forces, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on a combat security patrol, Bachman lost his life when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle.



Cpl. Ronald Schmidt enlisted Jan. 27, 2007 into Battery C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard. In October 2007 he deployed with the 1st Battalion 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Schmidt lost his life while assigned as a vehicle gunner during a combat patrol.

Nominations for future Hall of Fame inductions can be made, in writing, to the State Command Sergeant Major, Land Component. Nomination information is available via the chain of command or by contacting the Land Component Sergeant Major or the Kansas Sentinel.



# ***My Son***

A poem by  
Marian Lutters

**My son, I always wanted you,  
Even when I was a young child,  
Playing house and cuddling dolls.**

**My son, God gave you to me.  
And I cared for you,  
Rocked and sang to you.  
And it was wonderful.  
I wanted it to last forever.**

**My son, Quickly you grew and ornery you were,  
With a large grin on your face,  
Making friends with everyone you met.  
You learned how to ride a bike,  
Climb the tallest tree,  
And make the best mud pies.**

**My son, Then you became a young man,  
Handsome and strong.  
You had dreams of where you wanted to go,  
And what you wanted to do.  
Serving your country was your focus.  
I had to let you go and trust in God to care for you.**

**My son, I always wanted you,  
but God wanted you more.  
It was just too soon for me,  
But He has you now in His care.  
Rocking and singing to you.  
And it is wonderful.**

**Forever**

*Marian Lutters is the mother of Kansas NCO Hall of Famer, Sgt. Derrick Lutters, in  
tribute to her Kansas Army National Guard son, who was killed in action in Iraq,  
December 2004.*

# ***Air Assault :***

## ***Kansas Soldiers Earn their Wings***



Above: Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson touches down and gets "thumbs up" after successfully completing an aerial rappel from 90 feet (top right) from a hovering Black Hawk helicopter during the Air Assault Course.



"The ten days that I just went through were probably the most intense training I have ever been through," said 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Company Soldier, Sgt. Hector Medina. "It is physical. It is mental. It is everything they say it is," he continued as he clutched the silver air assault wings that had just been pinned on his chest, his voice quivering with the emotion of the moment. "It was probably the hardest thing I have ever done and I am proud of myself," he said.

Indeed, pride ran deep for 119 other Soldiers from Kansas and surrounding Midwestern states, and one Kansas Airman, as they stood in formation, exhausted from the 12-mile forced march the morning of April 23, 2010. Still in sweat soaked uniforms, all other thoughts were shoved to the recesses of their minds and pain was put on hold as they assembled into formation and were proclaimed graduated from the Air Assault Course.

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## AIR ASSAULT From Page 10

The course was conducted at Camp Gruber, Okla., for 10 grueling days from April 12 to 23, more than 210 would start the course; only 121 would graduate, earning silver Air Assault wings.

"This took my mind and body to the limits," said Sgt. Heath Bengé, Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Newton, Kan. "There were very stressful situations all the time but I pushed my body beyond what I thought I could do and got it completed."

Although the actual course was only 10 days, the school is 12 days in duration and consists of an in processing day, a zero day and 10 days of instruction in combat assault, exploring the various aircraft used during an air assault; a sling load phase and a rappelling phase which culminates in a rappel from an aircraft and a 12-mile road march with full pack that must be completed in three hours or less.

The physical demands of the course are as extreme as one can imagine. Zero day starts with a packing list inspection and administrative tasks and is designed to be a test of the applicant's mental stamina.

Once the administrative is taken care of, applicants are taken to an obstacle course and run through the paces. They are first shown how to complete the tasks and then run through the course. They are required to pass eight of nine obstacles designed to test their physical stamina. If they complete the obstacles, they are then put through a two mile run in running shoes and ACUs. All applicants for entry to the course must pass the run in less than 18 minutes. There is no gradation for age or gender. If the applicants meet all the criteria, they are admitted to the course.

In Phase I, students received instruction in all aspects of combat air assault, which includes aircraft orientations, safety, medical evacuation and hand and arm signals. Phase II is comprised of preparing, rigging and inspecting various slingloads and

must pass a hands-on evaluation, inspecting four of six loads and identifying three out of four deficiencies on each load two minutes less per load. Phase III, the rappel phase, students learned to tie a rappel seat, hook-up techniques, belay procedures and combat rappel, completing multiple rappels from a tower and one from a helicopter.

"We learned all about air assault operations, from the type of aircraft to their capabilities and had an aircraft ride on a UH-60 (Black Hawk). We learned all about slingload operations and how to inspect various things being slingloaded and find various deficiencies and had to pass academic tests covering all of that material," said Capt. Jason Innskeep, a training officer with the 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Officer Candidate

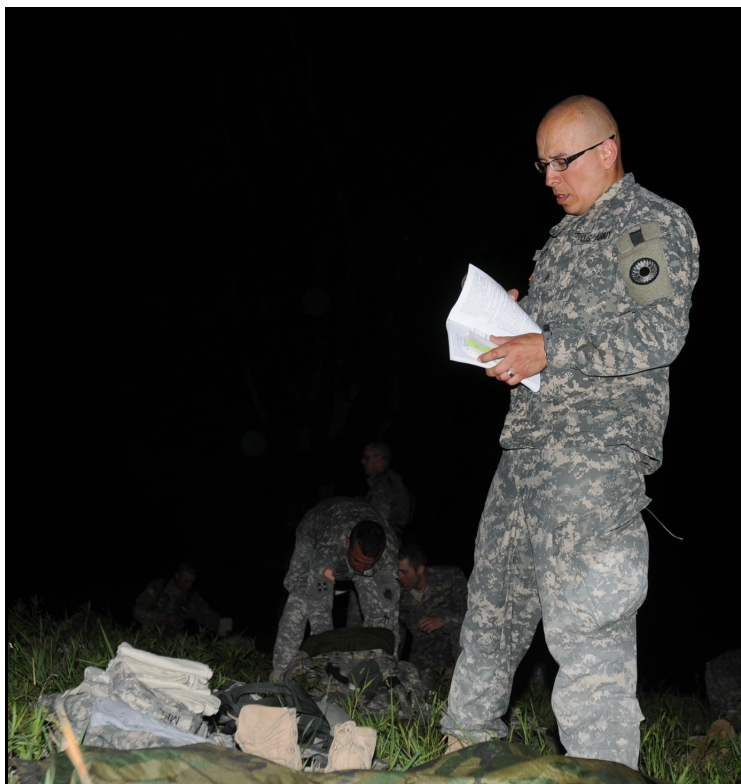
School Battalion. "Then we learned how to rappel, if you didn't know already, and all of that culminated in a rappel off a UH-60 and a road march. In amongst all that we had PT (physical training), we had a six mile road march last week and a four mile run," he continued.

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Page 11**



2nd Lt. Dustin Hanna, of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, secures the rappel seat step by step as he was taught, that he will use to rappel nearly 90 feet from a hovering UH-60.





*Left: Staff Sgt. Tim Buchorn, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, clutches his Air Assault wings after receiving them at the turn-around point of the road march. Students were given their wings at mid-march as a motivational incentive to finish the march. Above: Staff Sgt. Hector Medina goes through his packing list as he prepares to lay out the contents of his pack for final inspection after completing the 12-mile road march. All contents of the pack were inspected and one missing item would mean repeating that portion of training and going home only hours before graduation.*

## **AIR ASSAULT** **From Page 10**

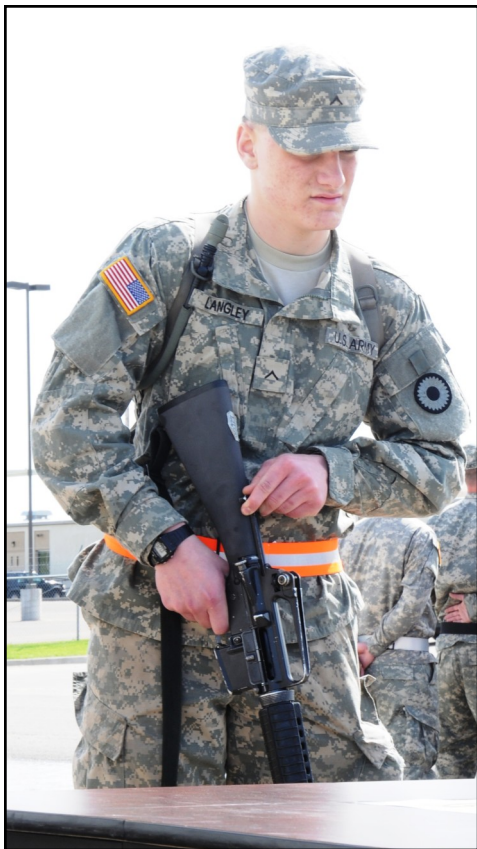
The most challenging aspect of training, according to Innskeep, wasn't what one might think. "The most challenging thing was probably Phase I," he said. "I didn't think it was real challenging academically but we would have PT in the morning, which was challenging, and then we would get smoked for a half hour to an hour for various deficiencies. So, just trying to keep the mental mindset and staying focused was a one day at a time thing. Focus on the task at hand and move on to the next day," he said.

For many of the graduates, the opportunity to enhance mission capabilities was worth the hardships they endured to get through the

class. Many are already aware of upcoming deployments around the globe in support of the war on terrorism. Having the capability to slingload or rappel only enhances their worth to the unit.

"I know on our next mission we will be doing some slingloading and that kind of stuff," said Spc. Jeremy Leach of Battery B, 1st Battalion 161 Field Artillery. "With Air Assault wings we become just that much more of an asset that the Battery can use. It is going to enhance the mission a lot logistically. I have a lot of pride from this," he continued. "I know there are a lot of people back at the unit who trusted me to come here and pass. Mission Complete."

# Recruit Sustainment Program conducts Warrior Challenge



*Pvt. 2 Aaron Langley, Wichita, performs a function check on the M16 function and familiarization portion of the Warrior Challenge competition April 17.*

*Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Phillip Witzke,  
105<sup>th</sup> MPAD*

More than 160 Recruit Sustainment Warriors from six locations around the state converged on Topeka, March 17, 2010, to participate in the first Warrior Challenge, a competition that would pit group against group and warrior against warrior, in a round robin test of common soldier skills.

After a pre-dawn physical fitness test, warriors would rotate through a series of six stations and perform in eight different categories, being graded on each task and how well they met the objective. They were tested in M-16 function and opera-

tions; first aid, in any of four separate scenarios; rank identification; knowledge of the Army Values, having to recite all seven to get a go; the full phonetic alphabet, challenge and password procedures; and land navigation and terrain features as well as shooting an azimuth.

"We started with a full Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) because we wanted them to experience it and get the Stripes for Skills," said Recruit Sustainment Program Coordinator Warrant Officer Abra Cloyd. "We are trying to build cohesion and camaraderie among the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) Soldiers. We would like the outcome to be some Stripes for Skills promotions where we can promote some of them before they go to basic training," she continued. "The whole intent of RSP is to teach them critical skills so when they get to basic training they will already know what their Common Training Tasks are and have a heads up on the active duty and reserves."

The idea of a conducting a Warrior Challenge sprang from two Kansas sites who wanted to gain bragging rights over the other. After the idea was posed to the recruiting commander, the decision was made to expand on the idea and conduct the competition statewide. It also pulled some of its tradi-

tion from what was formerly conducted as a recruiting event at the 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion. Kansas is not the only state to come up with the idea, however.

"Quite a few states are doing warrior challenges," Cloyd said. "We are trying to model ours after some of those other states. This is something that the RSP as a whole is trying to develop and do. The 891<sup>st</sup> used to do this as a recruiting challenge, so we did take a lot of ideas from them, too."

For each of the six challenge stations, award points were doled out to the individual Warrior as well as the RSP site that he or she represented. Scores were tallied on how well each Warrior performed the task and were tallied to determine an event winner, overall Warrior,

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*Pvt. 1 Brittney Campbell, a RSP Warrior from Salina, evaluates a simulated cold weather casualty during the Warrior Challenge, April 17.*





*Pvt. 1 Alex Canfield, a Jefferson West High School junior and RSP Warrior in Company A, Topeka, shoots an azimuth during the map reading and compass portion of the Warrior Challenge Competition.*

## Warrior Challenge From Page 12

and overall site. Steamers for each would also be awarded for the company to place on its site guide on. Each warrior was intent on garnering as many points as possible not only for themselves, but for their site.

"This is good training," said Pvt. 1 Brittney Campbell, a RSP Warrior from Salina. "It is a good learning experience, especially for people who haven't gotten to learn much beforehand. It is pretty hands on," she said. Campbell is only weeks away from attending basic training and feels more confident about going because of the

experience she has had during RSP. "You know a bit more of what to expect and this competition helps give you the confidence that you really know some of what is expected."

Drawing from the traditions of the 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, the day wasn't all competition. Many other activities we set up to accommodate the Warriors and to help them wind down after a day of mental and physical challenges.

"It is not just all work, we are giving them a little bit of play as well," Cloyd said. Recruiting command provided their inflatable obstacle course, some gaming systems and games, and also conducted a Drill and Ceremony com-

petition. This helps build the camaraderie among the sites in a less formal training environment and gives the Warriors something a little more familiar than CTT skills.

Taking top honors and earning streamers for their company guide on were: Drill and Ceremony, Company C, from Wichita; Map Reading, Company B, Salina; First Aid, Company E, Lenexa; Soldier Knowledge, Company B, Salina; Weapon Knowledge, Company D, Iola; Physical Fitness, Company F, Dodge City; Demonstrated Motivation, Company B, Salina; Overall Top RSP Company, Company F, Dodge City.

In individual Honors for overall RSP Warrior in each company were: Company A, Pfc. Matthew Vanderpool; Company B, Pfc. Andrew Wicks; Company C, Pvt. 2 Robert Morris; Company D, Spc. Shannon Schlotterbeck; Company E, Pfc. Christopher Smith; Company F, Pfc. Robert Branch.

Earning a Commander's Coin for top Army Physical Fitness Test score: Male; Pfc. Stiverson, Company C, Wichita with a score of 288; Female, Spc. Shannon Schlotterbeck, Company D, Iola with a score of 246

Overall top RSP Warrior was Pfc. Andrew Wicks, Company B, Salina.

**Share the Kansas Sentinel with your friends, employers, local politicians—let them know what the Kansas Army National Guard is all about!!!**



# Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament held

By Pfc. Robert Havens, 105<sup>th</sup> MPAD

The Sixth Annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Fishing Tournament was held April 17, 2010, at the Coffey County Lake near Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kan. The tournament is to celebrate the freedom and pursuit of happiness that Americans enjoy. By fishing, the participants demonstrated their acknowledgment and recognition of the fallen heroes of Kansas that gave the ultimate sacrifice for all American freedoms.

At the beginning of the tournament, a memorial service was held for the lives lost by Kansas National Guard members, but the boats, fishing rods, bait, food and music would tell you that a typical memorial service this was not. This memorial service remembers the fallen by living life that their friends, fellow service members and loved ones would have wanted to live.

"I always tell people that the way you honor people is to live your life to the fullest," said Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bun-

ting. "They made that sacrifice so that we can come out to Wolf Creek and fish, or do whatever the heck we want to do in America. That is what this event is all about."

A field artillery mechanic, Sgt. Russ McCall, who served with Soldiers in Iraq when they were killed,

McCall, "it's about remembrance and honoring the guys that gave the ultimate sacrifice. It's the quiet on the water and the chance to reflect on them, what they sacrificed, and the loved ones they've left behind. I hope no one ever forgets that what we enjoy in America has only been made possible by the sacrifice of those that are willing to stand up during danger and make it happen."

The tournament started at first light (about 6:00 a.m.) and everyone had to conduct final weigh in at noon. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kelly Stuffs from the 250th Forward Support Company, had prepared hamburgers, bratwursts, chips and potato salad for the noon meal while the judges decided which team earned first place.

**First Place Team:** Team Olds from Haysville, Kan., with five fish totaling seven pounds, 10 ounces.

**Second Place Team:** Team Watson from Elder, Kan., with five fish totaling six pounds, 13 ounces.

**Third Place Team:** Team Craft from Erie, Kan., with five fish totaling six pounds, seven ounces.

The Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation was given a special recognition award for hosting and arranging the tournament.



Sgt. Russ McCall, a field artillery mechanic, watches the water looking for fish during the sixth annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament.

Photo by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

participated for the first time in the tournament. Even though his team only caught two fish, the team had an enjoyable time.

"It's not about the fishing," said

# 105<sup>th</sup> MPAD wins journalism awards

Four prestigious accolades were recently awarded the Kansas Army National Guard's 105<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) and two of its Soldiers in Topeka for outstanding work in the field of journalism.

In the National level, Judges waded through a record-setting number of entries in the National Guard's annual media contest this year, which included more than 700 print stories and about 140 broadcast packages. The 50 or so categories in the Air and Army Guard contests included feature stories, television newscasts, stand-alone photos, commentaries and community relations plans.

In Broadcast, in the Television Information Program, Category One, the 105<sup>th</sup> MPAD won First Place for its Hall of Fame Video. "Everyone contributed to this," said

program director Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson. "This was the second year that we've done this for the Hall of Fame, and I expect us to do even better the next time we do it."

Hanson also won third place for his submission in the Television News Feature, Category M.

"Staff Sgt. Hanson is the best public affairs NCO I've ever seen in his ability to cover any event, be it video, print or photography," said 105<sup>th</sup> MPAD Commander, Maj. Mike Wallace. "He has a complete knowledge of what and how things have to be done. Through his actions, he is one of the greatest mentors for young Soldiers in public affairs that I've ever seen."

Wallace earned second place for a sports article in the print division. His highest recognition came, though, when he earned the Bille E. Fuqua award for Journalism in

Kansas. This award was presented to him by the Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, for his support to the State Public Affairs Office.

"The recognition Maj. Wallace, Staff Sgt. Hanson and the 105<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment received is well deserved," said Sharon Watson, public affairs director for the Adjutant General's Department. "It's a proud moment for the Kansas Guard to have these Soldiers and this unit honored for their hard work in journalism. Telling the story of what the Army Guard is doing is critical to its future and success."

Print and broadcast winners were forwarded to the next level of competition—the Army's Keith L. Ware Contest and the Air Force Media Contest.

## 287<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion Supports Special Olympics



Over 170 athletes and cheerleaders received a special treat on March 18, thanks to the Kansas Army National Guard's 287<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion (STB). The members of the Wichita Special Olympics team, which were participating in a basketball and cheerleading tournament in Hays, received a ca-

tered lunch courtesy of the STB and one of its subordinate units, the 731<sup>st</sup> Medium Truck Company. The meal, which was hosted at the Hays armory, was catered by the local Kentucky Fried Chicken and courtesy of the Wild West Fest Committee.

The Wichita athletes took part in a three-day tournament involving more than 1,600 athletes and coaches from across the state, with more than 150 games played. Fort Hays State University hosted the tournament and cheerleading competition March 18-20 at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Members of the Leavenworth team received an additional treat, as members of the 287<sup>th</sup> STB and the American Legion Riders provided them with a motorcycle escort through Hays to the Coliseum.

Master Sgt. Ray Palmer, 287<sup>th</sup> STB operations Noncommissioned officer, an active supporter of the Special Olympics, said the motorcycle escort is one of the most enjoyable aspects for the Special Olympics team members.

This marks the first year the 287<sup>th</sup> STB has been able to directly support the Kansas Special Olympics, but the unit hopes to continue to foster the growing relationship in the coming years.



# Family and National Guard Association Programs Awards

*Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges,  
105th MPAD*

Kansas National Guard Family Programs and the National Guard Association recognized many for their contributions during the Kansas 2010 Annual Joint conference in March. The awards ceremonies demonstrated appreciation and recognition to Kansas National Guard volunteers, families and friends for significant achievement and service to the Kansas National Guard Family Program. Any person having served a period of time in support of the Kansas Family Program and benefiting morale, cohesion and esprit de corps of the service members and families of the Kansas National Guard (KNSG) is applicable for awards.

“Volunteers bring to Family Programs an abundance of talents and gifts for that we are truly grateful,” states Michelle Williams, State Family Program Readiness Assistant, “We are pleased to have an opportunity to recognize these talents and countless hours of service each volunteer has devoted.” For the Outstanding Kansas National Guard Volunteers in the Family Programs, this year’s winners were presented their awards for their selfless dedication and unwavering support to the members and families of the Kansas National Guard.

The Newsletter of the Year Award was presented to the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade (See Page 24 for complete story) and accepted by Beth Arpin, Family Readiness Group (FRG) Chairperson of 287<sup>th</sup> Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The award recognized the unit for producing and maintaining the best Family Readiness Group newsletter



*Chris Divish and Theresa Schmitt (center) receive the Family Readiness Group of the Year award from Michelle Williams, Family Readiness Assistant, Kansas National Guard. Pictured from left to right: State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Harnworth, Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Divish, Schmitt and Williams.*

*Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD*

during the 2009 calendar year. Determination for this award recipient is through a voting process. The Family Readiness Assistant assembles a board of at least three individuals outside of the Family Program office to vote on the nominated individuals. Each board member votes anonymously and turns in their final results to the State Family Program Office through the Family Readiness Assistant.

“Our newsletter was a key element in dispersing vital information, resources, and a produce a sense of community within the families. Which became notably imperative with our unit deployed,” said Arpin.

The Frontier Award was presented to volunteers that contributed significantly to an activity or a group of activities that generated an environment that elevated the quality of life within their unit. This award requires a minimum of 50 service volunteer hours but not to exceed 199 hours.

**See AWARDS, Page 17**



## From AWARDS, Page 16

The recipients are as follows: Skylar Dickey, Chris Divish, Alicia Foster, Sharon Halsig, Jessica Herlinger; Jean Hirsh; Janet Kristinat, Whitney Kristinat, Jewel Murdock, Patti Phillips, Lt. Col. Jon Shafer, Tyler Shafer, Danni Stallbaumer, Sheri Taylor and Paula Zielke.

The Pioneer Award was presented to any volunteer who has displayed a commitment, not only to the unit but also to the morale and cohesion of the families within the unit and requires a minimum of 200 service volunteer hours yet not to exceed 499 hours. The recipients are as follows: Kimberly Abbey, Brenda Bernard, Nicole Boucher, Senior Airman Justin Burget, Susan Duggins, Staff Sgt. Sarah Mendez and Stacy Sanders.

The Horizon Award is presented to any volunteer who has provided support above and beyond the normal volunteer. These individuals distinguished themselves in such a manner as to be invaluable to the success of the Kansas Family Program. The Horizon Award requires a minimum of 500 documented service volunteer hours. The recipients are as follows: Beth Arpin, Marie Delong, Theresa Schmitt, and Kay Scott.

Other Award winners were: Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Wier (See page 21 for complete story) earned the Army Military Person of the Year Award.

The Unit of the Year award recognizes the most outstanding Army and Air unit level Family Readiness programs. This year, the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade won the award for the Army (See page 23 for complete story).

The Army Youth of the Year was Allyson White.

The Army Volunteer of the year was named to be Mrs. Theresa Schmitt (See page 22 for complete story).

The last Family Readiness Award was the Family of the year. Awardees earn this by countless hours of volunteering, and as a family, they honor the service members and inspire others families to do the same.

This year's Army Family of the Year was earned by Lt. Col. Dana Duggins, his wife Susan, and their daughters, Alicia and Jessika.



*Kansas Adjutant General, (left) Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, presented this year's Army Family of the Year to the Duggins Family. From left the youngest daughter, Jessika, Mrs. Susan Duggins, oldest daughter, Alicia and Lt. Col. Dana Duggins.*

Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD

The award banquet acknowledged and honored the volunteers of the Kansas National Guard. Michelle Williams expressed gratitude to each and every award recipient, "The Family Programs Office has truly reached thousands of family members across the state because of each volunteer.

Their hard work and relentless dedication in support of our program, their units and the families of all service members have made a positive and inspiring impact on the Kansas National Guard."

### HEY!!!

What's your Unit up to?  
Send the Sentinel your news!!!  
Email us your story and photos to:  
[phillip.witzke@us.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@us.army.mil)  
or [michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil)

# NGAKS recognizes Soldiers For exemplary performance



*(top photo) Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting (left) and Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. John Davoren (right) presented the Outstanding Army Company Grade Officer of the Year to Capt. Brent Buckley of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry. (right photo) Warrant Officer Ronnie Fankhauser of the 287th Sustainment Brigade was awarded the Outstanding Warrant Officer of the Year Award.*

Photos by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD

Other people recognized at the Annual Kansas National Guard Career Development and Family Readiness Seminar Banquet for their contributions during the last year by the National Guard Association of Kansas were:

The Outstanding Army Company Grade Officer of the Year is Capt. Brent Buckley of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry.

The Outstanding Army Warrant Officer of the Year was Warrant Officer Ronnie Frankhauser of the 287th Sustainment Brigade.

NCO of the Year—Sgt. Chase A. Taylor from Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

Kansas Army National Guard Outstanding Guardsmen of 2009 is Spc. Joseph A. Swann of the 35th Infantry Division Band.

Distinguished Service Awards were given to three Kansas National Guard members this year by the National Guard Association of Kansas for distinguishing themselves by unusual, conspicuous or out-

standing service to the National Guard Association of Kansas or the Kansas National Guard. The performances must be clearly exceptional in nature.

Lt. Col. Mike Erwin of Joint Forces Headquarters was recognized for his support, expert advice and guidance to the Legislative Committee. Maj. Mike Wallace, Commander of the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment earned the distinguished award for his support in recording all events historically and in publishing needed documents.



*Lt. Col. Michael Erwin (left photo) receives the Distinguished Service Award, from Col. Chris Stratmann. He earned the award for his work on the Legislative Committee.*



*Maj. Mike Wallace (right photo) was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, presented by Col. Chris Stratmann. He earned his award for the work in public affairs, movie production, writing and publishing information for the National Guard Association.*





# BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED AT BANQUET

*By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105<sup>th</sup> MPAD*

During this year's annual Kansas National Guard 2010 Joint Conference Awards Banquet held in Wichita in March, several civilian businesses and employers were recognized for their contribution to either the Kansas Guard or its members by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) members.

Kansas National Guard members nominate these businesses and employers and a committee comprised of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves members sift through the nominations and decide what level each nominee has earned through their support.

The highest award given is the 'Pro-Patria' Award. This year, two nominees that received the award at the banquet were Cox Communications in Wichita, and USD 469 Lansing School District.

Cox was nominated by Spc. Shanell Smith of the Kansas Military Honor Guard Team. Because of her Guard duties, notification to her civilian employer for extra duty was commonly short. During the past few years, the number of requests for the Honor Guard team has reached into the hundreds and Cox Communications has been very supportive in keeping her informed of changes while she was away from work.

"My supervisor always understands that my orders are not received promptly," said Smith. "They are

very supportive of me and of the several other employees they have that are in the Guard and Reserve."

Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Newton nominated USD 469, in particular, the school's Education Director, Dr. Randal Bagby for his support during Newton's pre-deployment training and during his deployment to Iraq. By making special arrangements, Newton received six months pay from the school district while being deployed.

"The Lansing School District community was very supportive during my deployment," Newton said. "Students, parents and staff sent daily emails and several care packages, and on the last day before deployment, the school gave me a farewell party."

The next level of ESGR award is the 'Above and Beyond' Award. The Lenexa Police Department earned the award by having six

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**Above:** Lenexa, Kan. Police Department representative Captain Tom Honlo, accepts one of the two ESGR Awards from ESGR representative Mick Allen. Awards were presented to the Lenexa Police Department for their outstanding support of the military. Pictured from left to right; Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Henry Camarin, Capt. Tim Honlo and Mr. Mick Allen.

**Left:** Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Newton accepts the ESGR Pro-Patria Award on behalf of USD 469, Lansing, Kan. for their exceptional support of Newton during his recent deployment. Pictured from left to right: Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Adjutant General, Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Newton and ESGR representative Mick Allen.

Photos by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD





*Accepting the Freedom Award for Spirit Aerosystems is from left to right; Lt. Brian Woods and his wife Rachael, and Susan and Doug Scott of Spirit Aerosystems. Spirit was recommended for the award by Woods for their outstanding support and recognition of the military in Wichita where the company is headquartered.*

Photo by Spec. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD

## ***From BUSINESSES*** ***Page 17***

members of their 135-member department in the Guard or Reserve. The department chief places special emphasis on support of the Guard and Reserve and is very proud of the officers that have served and those continuing to serve in the Guard or Reserve.

Then, the 'Freedom' Awards were given. Two earned this distinction, Star Lumber and Supply and Spirit Aerosystems, both in Wichita.

Star Lumber was nominated by Senior Airman Andrea Foster-Pincoski of the Air Force Reserves. "My employer understands when I have military duty and



## **Payne honored by City of Topeka**

*Photo and story by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*

The Topeka Military Relations Committee recently honored Kansas Army National Guard Soldier Spc. Dru Payne along with four other service members at the Topeka City Council meeting for their commitment and dedication shown while in the military.

"The military is a very important part of our Topeka community," said retired Warrant Officer Ron Brown, who was the evening's spokesperson for the Topeka Military Relations Committee. Besides Brown (above photo from left) Payne received her award from Topeka Mayor, William Bunten, and was introduced by the Deputy State Surgeon, Col. John Muther.

supports me when I am gone, and is always eager for my return," she said.

Spirit Aerosystems was recommended to receive the award by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bryan Woods of the Kansas Army National Guard.

"Mr. Turner, the president of the company, yearly recognizes the military sacrifices by sending a Veteran's Day mail to all employees," said Woods. The company also offers differential pay and health card for the families while the spouse is deployed. Families are eligible for community discounts on goods and Services and the management keeps everyone informed of advancing salary and retention rating in their absence. The company received and proudly displays a flag that was flown over the headquarters of the Multi-national Corps in Iraq.



# Weir Takes Top Honor in Army Guard

*Story by Staff Sgt. Greg Zuerchr,  
105th MPAD*

Tough situations call for special people to fill needed job roles. Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Weir fulfilled those requirements during difficult circumstances and was named as the Army Military Person of the Year at the 2010 Joint Conference held at the Wichita Hyatt this March. Weir, the headquarters and headquarters company readiness Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, handled the logistics for the unit before, during, and after its overseas mission. She served back in Kansas while the 287<sup>th</sup> deployed to Iraq, solving transportation issues, family situations, and aiding soldiers returning from the middle east theater.

Shouldering a heavy work load, Weir served as the 287<sup>th</sup> liaison back home. She gave credit to others, such as Michelle Williams, the family readiness assistant for Kansas, for her honor.

"I assisted her," said Williams, "so I know what a great job she did to deserve this award. She basically worked her tail off. She maintained great communication with our family readiness group, and just went above and beyond the call of duty. If there was a job to do, she took care of it. She was the glue that kept everyone together."

Complimenting Weir for her ability to handle several jobs at once, Williams noted that "she became very adept at multitasking, which was a huge undertaking," said Williams. "I think highly of her. She doesn't think just of herself, but is very giving to others."



*Sgt. 1st Class Samantha Weir, 287th Sustainment Brigade Logistics Noncommissioned Officer, receives the Army Military Person on the Year Award from Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting during ceremonies at the National Guard Joint Conference, March 27.*

*Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD*

According to Lt. Col. Craig Brenton, the deputy of analysis and exercises for the joint staff, Weir has stood out for some time. "I met her at Troop Command, when she was a specialist, and watched her carry out her duties from the outside. The things that stood out about her were if she was given a task, and she didn't know what to do, she usually figured it out. She wasn't afraid of making mistakes, and she certainly wasn't afraid of work. If she ever came to a point where she couldn't figure it out, she wasn't afraid to ask for help."

"She could always be counted on," said Brenton, "no matter how hard the tasking or mission was. She took on the hard jobs, the jobs no one else wanted, and despite knowing she was stuck in a hard position, she found a way to excel at them," he said. "As long as I've known her, she's been a good team player. All these qualities are hallmarks of a good NCO. I've known my share of people who have stood out in the past, and she has always stood out."

# Kansas Army National Guard Volunteer of the Year Named

By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher,  
105th MPAD

The Army has always valued volunteers whose desire is simply to fill a needed role that ultimately aids the greater cause of a successful mission. Theresa Schmitt personifies so much of what volunteerism is all about that has made the members of the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade stand out at the 2010 Joint Conference awards banquet held at the Wichita Hyatt this March.

As the Army Volunteer of the Year honoree, Schmitt gave the credit to all the volunteers that contributed to the unit's successful deployment to Iraq and the Family Readiness Group (FRG) that kept everyone connected. "I don't feel like I deserve it," she said. "It was a group effort. Nobody fell through the cracks, issues were taken care of as they happened. Nobody was left high and dry."

With her husband Col. Rob Schmitt, commander of the 287<sup>th</sup> Schmitt has been involved in four deployments, and used her experience to help lead the group of volunteers to keep everyone connected. That included soldier's family members from all corners of Kansas, the country, and even a territory. "The FRG has come a long way since our first deployment," she said. "They're giving

us more resources, more tools, so we can have more success staying connected with our spouses and loved ones."

ing what was going on – just normal every day activities."

Another tool, said Schmitt, was the phone tree. "A lot of volunteers were involved in contacting people, letting them know what was going on," said Schmitt. "Usually it was the same person contacting that family member, so that a friendship could grow as opposed to different volunteers calling at other times."

At first, the phone calls were every two weeks, then once a month or two, enough to keep family members informed without over-tasking both volunteers and family on the other end of the line. "If someone was having issues," said Schmitt, "we knew where to go, for example, where to contact the Red Cross or a financial institution."

Summing up the mission of volunteering with the FRG, Schmitt said "if the soldier isn't worried about the home front, they are able to do their jobs better. Assistance is still there (for the soldiers and families of the



*Mrs. Theresa Schmitt receives the Army Volunteer of the Year Award from Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General.*

Photo by Spc. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD

One key tool is the family newsletter. "The newsletters are fantastic," said Schmitt. "They reflected not only what we were doing at home, but also what was going on overseas within the confines of operational security. The newsletters were sent to all family members. Our website was a general site, full of pictures, reflect-

287<sup>th</sup>," she said.

"Just because they're back doesn't mean problems fall on the back burner. We look after each other. Soldiers and their families know what the resources are, during deployment and now after everyone's back home."



# 287th Earns Unit of the Year Accolades



Col. Robert Schmitt, Commander, 287th Sustainment Brigade, receives the Unit of the Year Award. Pictured from left to right: State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, Maj. General Tod M. Bunting, Schmitt and Lt. Col Tony Divish.

Photo By Spec. Angie Mooneyham, 105th MPAD

By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher  
105th MPAD

Whenever people work together for the greater good of their objective – putting team above individual achievement – one character trait that stands out above all others is that no one cares who gets the credit. That certainly can be said of the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, who was honored as the Army Unit of the Year at the 2010 Joint Conference held at the Wichita Hyatt this March. Col. Robert Schmitt, commander of the 287<sup>th</sup>, said it was a total team effort, and credited much of the unit's success to the Family Readiness Group (FRG) that served the unit.

"It was the finest FRG I've ever worked with," said Schmitt, who led the unit's deployment to Iraq from October 2008 to September 2009 at Operation Base Adder. "I don't know how you could do any

better. Our FRG had the best quality, inclusiveness, and communication than anyone could hope for. Everyone showed concern for the whole military family – the extended family as well as the core families. So many things happened that were solved by the FRG before it reached me as a concern. When it did, it arrived as a problem solved, well before I had to get involved."

Crediting the resources available as instrumental to the unit's successful deployment, Schmitt said "we had the finest resources we could tap into that we never had before on previous deployments. From the newsletters, the phone tree, all the hours put in by a central core of ladies – it was the right thing to do to take care of soldiers. It was all about taking care of soldiers."

Serving on three previous deployments before the 287<sup>th</sup>'s tour in Iraq, Schmitt said the communication on this deployment was the best he has ever experienced. "It was far better than the 2005 one. At that time we had no newsletter – just email to stay clued in with our families," he said.

He also thanked all the family readiness group volunteers on behalf of his soldiers.

The battalion commander for the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, Lt. Col. Tony Divish, said it was hard work, attention to detail, and contributions from everyone that led to the unit's successful year. "Beth Arpin deserves a lot of credit. She did a lot of work on the newsletter, and kept it a family, not a unit newsletter. I'm glad to have people like her," he said.

The newsletter contained photographs along with articles, as well as birthdays and anniversary dates of each soldier on page one. "They helped leadership remember," said Divish. "I know on two occasions it helped bail out soldiers to remember their anniversaries. A big part of the newsletter was communication. The amount of man hours devoted to putting the newsletter together would be like a second job. It made my job easier."

The administrative officer for the 287<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Col. Dana Duggins, noted that great organizations are interconnected, meaning that they value contact with families and provide activities so that there is something for everyone.

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**Page 25**

# 287th wins Newsletter of the Year

By Staff Sgt. Greg Zuercher,  
105th MPAD

Good communication is the life blood for any family unit or organization. It builds the bond of trust that has proven to sustain people throughout the most trying of times. Beth Arpin, the company coordinator for the 287<sup>th</sup> Family Readiness Group (FRG), took that knowledge and produced a newsletter that not only helped get soldiers and their family members through an overseas deployment – it helped them share the experience as a military family. She was honored with the FRG Newsletter of the Year award at the 2010 Joint Conference held at the Wichita Hyatt this

March. Arpin, who works in the central office of United School District 259 in Wichita, is the wife of Maj. Scott Arpin, who serves in the 108<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion.

The newsletter, which covered the deployment of the 287<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, was the product of more than Arpin's contribution. She credits other key people for the success the newsletter had in keeping soldiers and family members informed.

"One person that deserves a lot of credit is Michelle Williams (the Family Readiness Assistant for Kansas)," said Arpin. "She went above and beyond her call of duty. She took calls at any time, every day, which helped fill the content for our newsletter so that we could provide the vital information that family members wanted about their soldiers on deployment."

Another key volunteer she credited was Susan Duggins, whose husband Lt. Col. Dana Duggins was deployed as an administrative officer for the 287<sup>th</sup>. Because the newsletter linked anyone connected with the FRG and the 287<sup>th</sup>, out of state soldiers' family members embraced the unit even though they had no previous history with the 287<sup>th</sup> prior to deployment. In addition to the regular newsletter, the



287th Commander, Col. Robert Schmitt helps award Beth Arpin the Newsletter of the Year award for her work on the unit newsletter.

Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th MPAD

command of the 287<sup>th</sup> provided a newsletter from the field as well. "I don't think I've ever been affiliated with an organization that has been involved and connected to people as the Kansas National Guard," said Duggins.

"The newsletter is easy to me," said Arpin. "I work on the computer a lot in my job, so I'm used to writing. I remember from my husband's previous deployment – there was no newsletter - no organized outreach. This FRG really reached out and touched a lot of families, which made my job of providing good stories for the newsletter that

much easier."

"Once the soldiers were gone, our focus was on what was going on over there," she said. "We were very adamant about covering stories about the FRG phone tree - the wellness checks once a month for the first few months, then later once every two months to keep families in the communication loop. To me, the newsletter was very beneficial keeping families informed about the resources available to them."

According to Arpin, she and other volunteers placed the highest priority on the newsletter's content. "We didn't want fluff – we wanted families to see what impact our soldiers had over there. Stories included reading programs our soldiers were doing with Iraqi children, purifying water, as well as medical outreach for Iraqi families."

A website for the 287<sup>th</sup> was created by Arpin and her team of volunteers and every newsletter was posted on it, which is still available. "One of the best comments I ever received came from the wife of a soldier from the east coast," said Arpin. "She told me she loved getting the newsletter. One huge outcome of the newsletter was it got so many more people involved."





Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson, poses with Sgt. Sarah Cowell (above photo, left) of the Kansas Army National Guard. She was one of several military members present when the governor signed the Statement of Support that declares Kansas will support the military and businesses that employ military members.

## UNIT OF THE YEAR From Page 23

“We had soldiers and families spread out all over Kansas, the country, and its territories,” said Duggins. “There was a high degree of commitment to keep track of everybody, to let them know what was going on, so they could take care of each other. So much of this award has to do with the volunteers.”

The Army Volunteer of the Year was Col. Robert Schmitt’s wife, Theresa. He also gave credit to Jewel Murdock, the treasurer of the 287<sup>th</sup>’s FRG; Susan Duggins, wife of Dana Duggins; as well as Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Samantha Weir, who helped on the military side.



Members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, march in to their departure ceremony for their Horn of Africa mission.

The ceremony was held at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kansas. .

*Photo by Jane Welch, State Public Affairs*



## NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE—

- 1) Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment says farewell—Governor gives special send-off (above)
- 2) Extreme Fighters Soldiers compete in the arena
- 3) Armed Forces Appreciation Day
- 4) 1st Battalion 161 Field Artillery fires artillery in Wichita during Riverfest
- 5) Soldier, martial artist and author
- 6) 1-161 FA fires artillery in downtown Wichita



# 1-161 FA has AFATDS exercise

By Maj. Mike Wallace,  
105th MPAD

With the help of newly fielded GETAC laptop computers, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery (FA) was able to conduct its first successful artillery tactical data system (AFATDS) training over the state network on Jan. 9-10, 2010

The unit used their GETAC laptops, which is a fully ruggedized and customizable mobile computer. Its ruggedization features include a sealed die-cast magnesium alloy casing that not only provides superior durability, but is also water and dust resistant.

AFATDS is an Army and Marine automated command and control system for fire support operations. It is the singular command, control and communications solution to the complex problem of integrating and controlling fire support assets. The AFATDS A99 Version vastly improves the flexibility of inputs, such as critical commander's criteria and priority of fires, and has a distributed database that supports horizontal and vertical continuity of operations throughout all levels on the battlefield. The software includes tactical and technical fire direction capabilities.

This software is known as SISTIM software. For the digital exercise SISTIM software was used to create a scenario and emulate observers and howitzers, which enabled the units to become proficient on the system without having to send any units to Fort Riley to operate the howitzers, thus saving valuable training time and money.

This also marked the first time the AFATDS Effects Management Tool (EMT) was incorporated into 1-161 FA training. The GETAC laptops operate a new windows based AFATDS that greatly enhanced and increased the communication ability between the Headquarters in Wichita and units in Paola and Newton.



(Above photo, from left) Spc. Michael Beckner, 1st Lt. James Pope, and Sgt. Tim Rozell, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery in Wichita, get 'Hands-on' time with the new AFATDS system.

Photo

Approximately 67 percent of Field Artillery is in the Army National Guard (ARNG). During the past few years, the Guard has assumed a larger role within the field artillery, and the relationship between the country's Active and Reserve Components units have become close. Recognizing the increased role of the field artillery in the ARNG, some Guard units will be fielded new equipment before some active units. Such is the case with the advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS).

"AFADTS allows us to conduct branch-specific training that builds teamwork, maintains Soldier skills, and makes maximum use of training time because our Soldiers don't have to travel to a central location for training," said Brig. Gen. John Davoren, Commander of the Kansas Army national Guard.

Sgt. Timothy Rozell, the AFATDS non-commissioned officer says he is looking forward to future training with the system.

"It's good to have it," he says. "I am looking forward to using it in the field when all the rest of the parts come in that we've ordered. That is when we will see the full abilities of the system, and it should make one big difference in how field artillery operations work."



# ***Know Your Benefits:***

## ***Applying for use of your Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits***

*Know Your Benefits is a continuing series on how to get the most of your Guard experience through use of the benefits you have earned during your military service.*

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD*

In last month's article, we talked about the history and development of the Montgomery GI Bill. This month, we will look at how to determine what your benefits are and how you can use them to reach your education goals.

Today's GI Bill provides funding to service members and veterans who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees, tutorial assistance, licensing and certification programs, and distance learning, just as in times past. You must also be accepted to an institution of higher learning— that is, an institution that is authorized to grant an associates degree or higher.

However, because today's GI Bill is based on cumulative service on active duty status, members of the National Guard and Reserves may add up multiple deployments to count toward the benefit, which can provide a significantly increased amount of benefit as apposed to the Montgomery GI Bill Select Reserve.

To check eligibility, you must contact the Veteran's Administration. You may be asked to verify the amount of active (Title 10) time you have on deployment post 9/11; it is used to calculate your benefit level. (You can find a list of the levels based by month on the VA website [www.todaysgibill.org](http://www.todaysgibill.org) along with a calculator to help determine the projected amount you may receive from the post 9/11 entitlement.)

For those who may not have deployed time since 9/11 or, who may be retired, you will have to check with the VA to find out what level of benefit you are entitled to receive. There are multiple programs out there that are being administered by the VA. There is the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill with provisions for title 10 (Active Duty ) who must have contributed and for the Select Reserve. There is REAP and DEAP and rehabilitation training; all of which can lead to the same end, a college degree.

The best advise is to check with the Veterans Administration via their web site. Lets face it, we have all slept since we signed up and benefits have changed. You may be eligible for things you never imagined...or your time may have expired without your realizing it!

The web site is [www.todaysgibill.org](http://www.todaysgibill.org). There you will find a plethora of information that can help you make an informed decision as well as check your benefit availability and level.

Once you have done that, you need to choose an institution to attend and apply for admission. You MUST be admitted before you will get any benefits at all. After you are admitted, get to know your Veterans Representative at the school. They can help guide you if you need more information. They can also help you with problems you may encounter along the way.

After your classes start and you are attending, you must verify your enrollment monthly via telephone or Internet. This will keep your money coming.

## **Family Readiness Group Workshop approaching**

The Statewide Family Readiness Group Workshop will be held June 12-13, 2010 at the Holiday Inn (West- Holidome), 605 SW Fairlawn Rd, Topeka, Kan.

Registration is from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday with the Workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday.

Event facilitator Michelle Williams says that everyone that is interested in attending the event should register early as space is limited and the registration deadline is June 2.

To register please go to:

<http://www.jointservicesupport.org/> and create a login, go to Events, then Family Readiness Group Training: State Wide.

If you have any questions, please contact either Sgt. Jennifer Gold (785) 274-1512 or Michelle Williams at (785) 274-1173

The event is sponsored by the Kansas National Guard Family Program Office, 2722 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kan.

# Guardzman's Passion leads to training Kansas Citizens

*By Spc. Angie M. Mooneyham  
105<sup>th</sup> MPAD*

In 2006 the Kansas legislative passed The Personal and Family Protection Act,. Since July 2006, over 22,000 Kansans have applied for a Concealed and Carry License. The first licenses were issued on Jan. 3, 2007, and since the beginning, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David W. Bonn, a Kansas National Guard Recruiter who has 16 years of service and is a Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, has been a part of the undertaking of getting Kansans trained. He is also seeing more Soldiers in his classes.

"Guns are a passion of mine and I love training people, too. It's a noble cause to give law abiding people the ability to defend themselves. If you have people that are trained with handguns, they are going to be a lot better off to deal with a situation," said Bonn.

Taking a concealed and carry class is pertinent to getting firearm trained and having a basic knowledge of how to use a handgun, but there are guidelines and rules, according to Bonn.

"All the same concealed and carry rules apply for both civilian and military personnel, with the exception of additional rules for Soldiers," said Bonn.

Here are some of the additional rules:

**Don't** conceal and carry while in uniform, even during off duty hours. A Soldier can conceal and carry in their personal vehicle during off duty hours, but can not have a firearm on them while in uniform.

**Don't** conceal and carry or transport a personal firearm on any type of Government facility or base.

**Don't** conceal and carry in a Government Vehicle, even on off duty hours.

Active duty Soldiers don't have to submit a Kansas Drivers License to get a Conceal and Carry License. A Kansas identification card will be sufficient for the application.

**Don't** call the firearm a weapon! Instead, use defensive handgun or pistol to assist with legal issues, if a situation would arise that a person would have to 'defend' themselves.



*Sgt. 1st Class David Bonn teaches defensive tactics during a recent conceal and carry class.*

Photo provided

**Do** improve handgun comprehension and training by taking a Concealed and Carry course.

A Concealed and Carry course consist of an eight hour classroom training and qualification with a handgun at an approved range facility. Upon completion of the course, a background check must be completed and a Conceal and Carry application must be submitted to a local law enforcement agency, according to Bonn.

However, just because you obtain a conceal and carry license in Kansas, don't think you are safe in traveling with that weapon outside the state. Not all states recognize the license. Likewise, Kansas doesn't recognize all other states licenses either. Kansas statutes and regulations governing Kansas concealed carry are posted on the Attorney General's website at [www.ksag.org](http://www.ksag.org).

For additional information or for an up coming Concealed and Carry course, go to:  
[www.Americanpistolassociation.com](http://www.Americanpistolassociation.com)



# Korean documentary features 35th Infantry Division

*By Lt. Col. Rick Peat  
35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs Officer*

The 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (ID) will be featured in a Republic of Korea (ROK) documentary about a United States reserve component unit participating in Operation Key Resolve 2010. “We are honored to have been selected from among many reserve component units participating in Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2010,” said Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, 35<sup>th</sup> ID Commander.

The Republic of Korea’s government would like to reduce the size of their active component military, and bolster their reserves. However, when they announced these plans, their public responded unfavorably. They commissioned this documentary to present to the Korean people how the U.S. and Israeli reserve systems work as compared to the present and proposed ROK reserve systems.

The documentary film crew consisted of four people, a producer, cameraman, writer, and interpreter. Also helping to host the film crew and to interpret was the Korean Army’s liaison officer to Fort Leavenworth, Lt. Col. Yoonkap Lim.

According to the producer, Chung Intaek, the documentary will be broadcast in May 2010, consisting of four 1-hour shows. The first segment will feature the 35<sup>th</sup> ID preparing for Operation Key Resolve at home station in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The second segment will feature the 35<sup>th</sup> and other reserve component units participating in the exercise in Korea from March 8<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. The third and fourth segments will cover the Israeli system.

Due to the highly visible nature of this public documentary and the level of open access to the 35<sup>th</sup> ID, the Korean documentary project required approval at the highest levels. The approvals included the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of the Army’s Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, 8<sup>th</sup> Army Commanding General, National Guard Bureau, The Adjutant General of Kansas, and the Commanding General of the 35<sup>th</sup> ID.

According to Maj. Jungbum Hur, National Guard Bureau Liaison Officer to 8<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters, the 35<sup>th</sup> ID was chosen to be featured in the documentary



*Members of the 35th Infantry Division are videotaped during their interviews with the Korean film crew.*

*Photo provided*

because “their mission is 'high-vis' and they have an internal PAO to coordinate with U.S. Forces Korea, 8th Army and ROK. Also, since they will be supporting the First ROK Army (FROKA), the ROK Ministry of National Defense will be able to coordinate for the film crew to be allowed into FROKA HQ.”

Brig. Gen. Alex E. Duckworth, 35<sup>th</sup> ID Deputy Commanding General, said the documentary, which is slated to be broadcast by April of this year, was a good opportunity for the ROK to see exactly how a great National Guard division runs.

“It’s interesting that the Koreans are looking at how other reserve branches work and it’s good that they’re taking an opportunity to interview experts,” Duckworth said.

The Korean film team spent five days with the 35<sup>th</sup> ID during February at Fort Leavenworth, KS, preparing for their deployment to Korea for Operation Key Resolve. They also covered the unit during the exercise in March in Korea. They returned to Kansas in April to gain additional video of National Guard mobilization training, covering the 2d Bn, 137<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Bn. preparing at the Joint Regional Training Center – Salina and Fort Riley, for deployment to the Horn of Africa.

# AFAP Addresses Soldier Issues at National Conference

Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges  
105th MPAD

The 2010 Army National Guard's Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Mid-Level Conference was held May 2-7 in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of this event was to identify and address various issues concerning National Guard Soldier's and their family members from throughout the past year.

"We have to hear from our constituents," said Colonel Gregory Bliss, Chief, Soldier and Family Support Army National Guard, "We have to hear from the people at tip of the spear so to speak. They give us a realist perceptive of what their needs are, and how we can resolve them and how we can provide other means and resources to support them for whatever their challenges or missions are."

State delegates comprised of National Guard volunteers, soldiers, retirees and DA Civilians gathered to discuss, prioritize and recommend solutions to the 56 "quality-of-life issues" presented from their State's Guardsmen. From these issues, five, voted most critical to the National Guard community, were selected to move forward for potential policy change.

"AFAP is the Army's opportunity for grass roots speaking from every corner of the globe to address issues and concerns that affects soldiers and their families in their everyday life," explained Chaplin (Maj.) Quentin Collins, Family Programs Branch Chief. "It gives them a venue to bring these issues up to the Secretary of the Army, DOD, Congress and even the president that will initiate possible law changes, policy changes or even funding."

The Army National Guard AFAP attendees, carefully reviewed and selected the following five critical topics:

-Rear Detachment Liaison During the Reserve Component Mobilization/Deployment Cycle;

-Respite Child Care for Deployed Soldier's Children's Primary Care Giver (PCG);

-Reserve Component and Families Post Deployment Transitional Assistance Management Program Coverage;

-Reserve Component Child Neglect and Abuse Education, Prevention and Intervention Awareness Training and -Timely return of Wounded Warrior Personal Effects.

Issues of concern that were not selected, will be revised and reviewed, then submitted for next year's AFAP conference. This year actually marked the first AFAP conference intended specifically for National Guard issues.

"Big Army has a different need set, and though their needs are some-

what related to us, we have so many unique needs that it has become imperative that we become more involved in the decision process, instead of sitting back and letting the decisions be made for us," said Chaplain Collins.

An issue can be submitted by a soldier, family members, retirees and civilians to the State Family Program Director. Issues are then reviewed, sorted and sent to Family Morale Welfare Recreation Command. If you would like to submit an issue, contact Mary Nesbitt at [mary.nesbitt1@us.army.mil](mailto:mary.nesbitt1@us.army.mil) or 785-274-1171.

**"AFAP is the Army's opportunity  
for grass roots speaking from  
every corner of the globe to  
address issues and concerns that  
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- Chaplin (Maj.) Quentin Collins, Family  
Programs Branch Chief.



# Helpful Hints from the Webmaster

By SGT Georgia Schafer

Lately I have been fielding many questions about where to find different kinds of software on AKO, how to set up a CAC reader on a home computer, and how to set up new user accounts on the KS domain, so I thought I would post some helpful links to answer these questions.

Everyone wants to know how to get a good deal on Microsoft Office for home use. The good people at AKO foresaw this desire for good deals, so they created the "Slick Deals in Technology" page, located here: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/364105>. At the top of the page, on the right is the information for obtaining Microsoft Office for the cost of shipping and processing. Another option for working with Microsoft Office files is OpenOffice, an open-source collaborative project offered to the public free of charge. OpenOffice allows you to create .doc, .xls, and .ppt documents, and it allows you to export to PDF from the word processor. OpenOffice is available here: <http://www.openoffice.org/>.

Another question I receive frequently is where to get antivirus software for home use. Again, AKO has many wonderful security related resources. The main AKO page for antivirus support is located here: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/3>, this page has links to antivirus FAQs, the latest viral threats as identified by McAfee and Symantec, and the Symantec Hoax page. The United States Army Computer Emergency Response Team hosts the page for antivirus software downloads, and it is located here: [https://www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/AntivirusHome\\_Use.htm](https://www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/AntivirusHome_Use.htm).

Setting up a CAC reader on a home computer can be very difficult, and resources for installing CAC readers can be difficult to find. AKO has a page for this too. The one stop shop for CAC reader installs on home computers is the "CAC Configuration and Installation Page," located here: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/517624>. This page has links to all the necessary software

downloads to get your CAC reader up and running, and it has instructions too! \*\*\*If you are having problems with your CAC reader, make sure you have the most recent DOD Certificates on your computer\*\*\*, links to these certificates are located under the first step of the instructions on the AKO "CAC Configuration and Installation Page."

Getting a new user account on the KS domain can seem a daunting task, but if you talk to the right people, it is really quite simple. Who are the right people? They are the Information Assurance Security Officers, and each unit has one. The IASO will have the new user complete the DoD Information Assurance Awareness Exam located at <https://ia.gordon.army.mil/login.asp>, the G3 Computer Security Training and the Thumb Drive Awareness Training at [https://iatraining.us.army.mil/\\_usermgmt/login.htm](https://iatraining.us.army.mil/_usermgmt/login.htm), and the KS IT Policy Agreement Letter - which requires the new user's digital signature. Then the IASO will help the new user fill out a New User Account Sheet and IT Policy Agreement, available at <http://ngksa0helpweb/heatselfservice/default/en-us/helpDocs/newAccount.asp> (accessible from KS domain computers only). Lastly, the IASO will send the New User Account Sheet to the KSARNG Help Desk, and the new account will be available in about a week.

These questions make up the great majority of the questions I am asked on a regular basis. If you need any assistance with any of these items, please keep in mind that the KSARNG Help Desk and I only control the New User Account Sheet. All other items referenced on this page are controlled by other entities, and you should address any questions about them to the respective entity (AKO, ACERT, IA Gordon, IA Training).





# **The Soldier's Creed**

**I am an American Soldier.**

**I am a Warrior and a member of a team.**

**I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.**

***I will always place the mission first.***

***I will never accept defeat.***

***I will never quit.***

***I will never leave a fallen comrade.***

**I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.**

**I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.**

**I am an expert and I am a professional.**

**I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.**

**I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.**

**I am an American Soldier.**